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BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS

Last week, at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of New Champions in Tianjin, China, "hyperconnectivity" was a central theme. Hyperconnectivity is the trend towards having more of the world's population online at any given time, as more and more devices from computers to smart phones to kitchen gadgets, now have the ability to go online.

Business leaders have embraced hyperconnectivity as it puts them in direct contact with consumers. E-commerce is set to double by 2016 and has become a key building block of the new global economy. The City of Chattanooga, Tennessee has invested heavily in its information, communication, and technology infrastructure to take advantage of this new trend.

In 2010, Chattanooga became America's first "GIG" city. A 600 square mile service area connecting 170,000 businesses and homes to internet speeds of up to 1 gigabit (1,000 megabits) per second.

As a result of its \$220 million investment in broadband internet access, Chattanooga has attracted dozens of companies such as Volkswagen and Amazon – creating over 7,500 jobs and over \$2 billion dollars of investment in the region.

A city once best known for its air pollution, Chattanooga is now a place where new business startups are relocating to and young people are moving back to after college, because of its entrepreneurial opportunities.

Chattanooga is one of several cities participating in the US IGNITE program, a joint venture between the National Science Foundation and the White House, to bring ultra-high-speed broadband internet access to 25 cities nationwide.

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With an unemployment rate of 11.2% as of July 2012 and its population expected to grow by 1.5 million by 2020 to 11.5 million, it is prudent that Los Angeles County look at the "Chattanooga Model" and invest in its information, communication, and technology (ICT) infrastructure to improve internet access and speeds to spur innovation, job creation, and improved government services.

Hyperconnectivity means "more" – more information, more connections, more business opportunities, more jobs and more transparency. But it can also mean more risks and vulnerabilities such as cybercrime. As anything attached to a network can be hacked, and everything is being connected to a network, the cost of cybercrimes exceeds \$1 trillion annually.

It is vital that Los Angeles County re-examine its internet security protocols as it looks to expand broadband internet access countywide. Additionally, it must look at updating its protocols for the distribution of information to ensure that Los Angeles County continues to be transparent and accountable to the public while protecting the privacy rights of foster youth, patients, clients, and its employees.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office in collaboration with the Chief Information Office to:

1. Examine the "Chattanooga Model" and report back to the Board in 45 days on how best to upgrade Los Angeles County's ICT infrastructure to spur innovation, job creation, and improved government services. As well as coordinate with the counties internet service providers, public and private utility providers, colleges, universities, community colleges, our 134 unincorporated communities, 88 cities, US IGNITE and all the Economic Development Agencies located in Los Angeles County on a possible partnership for this endeavor.
2. Update the County's protocols for the distribution of information to ensure that county government continues to be transparent and accountable to the public while protecting the privacy rights of foster youth, patients, clients, and its employees and security of confidential information.

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